

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of querying a knowledge profile, comprising:

responsive to a first query, including a ~~first~~-query term, from an

originator, accessing a public portion of a knowledge profile for each of a

plurality of potential targets, the public portion of each knowledge profile

including public knowledge terms indicative of a knowledge base of a

potential target;

performing a first matching operation between the query term and public

knowledge terms within the public portion of each knowledge profile to

identify a first set of potential targets for which a match exists between the

query term and at least one public knowledge term;

publishing the first set of potential targets to the originator;

responsive to a second query from the originator, accessing ~~the~~a

private portion of a knowledge profile for each of the plurality of potential

~~targets of the electronic document~~, the private portion of each knowledge

profile including private knowledge terms indicative of a knowledge base

of a potential target;

performing a second matching operation between the query term and

the private knowledge terms within the private portion of each knowledge profile to identify a second set of potential targets for which a match exists between the query term and at least one private knowledge term; prompting each potential target of the second set of potential targets for authorization to be published to the originator; and ~~specifying using~~ a query expiration parameter ~~with respect to~~ to control expiration ~~of the second query after which the second query is retired.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~specifying a query~~ expiration parameter ~~comprises specifying~~ specifies a query expiration interval ~~with respect to~~ for the second query ~~after which the second query is retired.~~

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~specifying a query~~ expiration parameter ~~comprises specifying~~ specifies a maximum number of matches with respect to the second query, ~~wherein the second query is retired if the maximum number of matches is found with respect to the second query.~~

4. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data ~~representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions~~ which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform ~~the following~~ a process comprising:

responsive to a first query, including a ~~first~~ query term, from an originator, accessing a public portion of a knowledge profile for each of a plurality of

potential targets, the public portion of each knowledge profile including public knowledge terms indicative of a knowledge base of a potential target;

performing a first matching operation between the query term and public knowledge terms within the public portion of each knowledge profile to identify a first set of potential targets for which a match exists between the query term at least one public knowledge term;

publishing the first set of potential targets to the originator;

responsive to a second query from the originator, accessing ~~the~~ a private portion of a knowledge profile for each of the plurality of potential targets ~~of the electronic document~~, the private portion of each knowledge profile including private knowledge terms indicative of a knowledge base of a potential target;

performing a second matching operation between the query term and the private knowledge terms within the private portion of each knowledge profile to identify a second set of potential targets for which a match exists between the query term and at least one private knowledge term;

prompting each potential target of the second set of potential targets for authorization to be published to the originator; and

~~specifying using~~ a query expiration parameter with respect to control expiration ~~of the second query after which the second query is retired.~~

5. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 4, wherein said ~~specifying a query~~ expiration parameter ~~comprises specifying~~ determines a query expiration interval ~~with respect to the second query after which the second query is retired.~~

6. (Currently amended) The medium of claim 4, wherein said ~~specifying a query~~ expiration parameter ~~comprises specifying~~ determines a maximum number of matches with respect to the second query, ~~wherein the second query is retired if the maximum number of matches is found with respect to the second query.~~

7. (Currently amended) A system for querying a knowledge profile, comprising;  
one or more clients to send queries from originators; and  
a knowledge server to:  
receive queries from any of the clients;  
responsive to a first query from one of the clients, including a ~~first~~ query term, from ~~the~~ an originator, access a public portion of a knowledge profile for each of a plurality of potential targets, the public portion of each knowledge profile including public knowledge terms indicative of a knowledge base of a potential target;  
perform a first matching operation between the query term and public knowledge terms within the public portion of each knowledge profile to identify a first set of potential targets for which a match exists between the query term and at least one public knowledge term;  
publish the first set of potential targets to the originator;

responsive to a second query from the originator, access ~~the~~ a private portion of a knowledge profile for each of the plurality of potential targets of the electronic document, the private portion of each knowledge profile including private knowledge terms indicative of a knowledge base of a potential target;

perform a second matching operation between the query term and the private knowledge terms within the private portion of each knowledge profile to identify a second set of potential targets for which a match exists between the query term and at least one private knowledge term;

prompt each potential target of the second set of potential targets for authorization to be published to the originator; and

~~specify using~~ a query expiration parameter ~~with respect to~~ to control expiration of the second query ~~after which the second query is retired.~~

8. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the ~~knowledge server specifies~~ a query expiration parameter ~~by specifying~~ represents a query expiration interval ~~with respect to the second query after which the second query is retired.~~

9. (Currently amended) The system of claim 7, wherein the ~~knowledge server specifies~~ a query expiration parameter ~~by specifying~~ represents a maximum number of matches

with respect to the second query, wherein the second query is retired if the maximum number of matches is found with respect to the second query.